

Illinois. Of course, there are isolated small prairies east thereof, perhaps as far east as western New York, but I think that all these early botanists should be excluded from the list of the explorers of the Prairie Region. They belong to the Northeast.

Of course there are many good features in Professor Harshberger's Phytogeographic Survey, as for instance his bibliographies, which will be very useful to students of phytogeography; but these good features I have omitted, for they do not bear upon my subject. This article is not intended to be, as it may seem, merely an adverse criticism of Professor Harshberger's work under a disguised title. There is something more aimed at. Not long ago, all botanical work done in this country was taxonomic work, usually known as systematic botany, although much had indeed little of "systematic" in it. Now it is different. Courses in taxonomy are almost excluded from the curriculum of many of our colleges and universities, or if not excluded, so little esteemed that students are discouraged from entering upon them. The taxonomist, whether a systematic botanist in the true sense or a phytographer, is looked upon by phytogeographers, ecologists, physiologists, cytologists, and morphologists as of a lower grade of stuff;—as if it took a less fine grain of brain to make a first class systematist than any other kind of -ist. What I have aimed to show is that the taxonomist has his place in Botany, and if his work is ignored, other -ists, who are dependent upon him, can not do good work. Professor Harshberger's Phytogeographical Survey, in a field fairly well known to me, gave me an opportunity to show to what such ignoring would lead.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

PISTILLODY IN ARGEMONE PLATYCERAS LINK AND OTTO.

BY I. M. LEWIS

The occurrence of pistillody or the conversion of stamens into pistils is by no means common, neither is it rare. It has been reported in many genera of plants and has been repeatedly



FIG. 1. A teratological specimen of *Argemone platyceras*.

described by various investigators. The different types of this anomaly are too well-known to require discussion.* The teratological specimen of *Argemone platyceras* shown in the accompanying photograph was found growing in a field near Austin, Texas, May 21, 1910. But a single individual exhibiting the anomaly was observed, and although many field trips have since inci-



FIG. 2. A single pistillodium. Explanation in text.

dentally taken me through fields covered with this plant, casual observation has not so far revealed other specimens. I am convinced therefore that the occurrence of this condition is extremely rare in this species, although it is known to be of common occurrence among the Papaveraceae. All of the flowers of this individual are anomalous. The stamens are all changed to pistillodia, the petals are completely suppressed, and the pistil reduced to a

* DeVries, Hugo, *Species and Varieties, Their Origin by Mutation*, Chapter XIII, Pistillody in Poppies. 1906. Master-Dammer, *Vegetable Teratology*. Schilberszky, K., *Adotsk a Virag szaporadi szerveinek rendellenes szerkezeteher. Beiträge zur abnormalen Structur der productiven Organe der Blüthe.* (Abhandl. a. d. Geb. der Naturw., Herausg. v. d. Ung. Wiss. Akad., Bd. XXII, No. 4, 79 p. Mit 7 Taf. Budapest, 1892. Review in Just's *Botanischer Jahresbericht* 1: 465. 1892.)

rudimentary condition. The pistillodia remain for the most part separate, but in a few cases two or more are fused together. Both the anther and the filament of the stamen are affected. The filament is inflated into a somewhat irregularly terete organ, on the inner surface of which naked ovules are borne (Fig. 2). The outer side is covered with coarse, stiff sharp-pointed hairs resembling the same structures of the normal ovary. The anthers are replaced by an expanded leaf-like structure borne sessile on the stalk. This expanded portion is stigmatose along the edge and in some cases well-developed pollen is produced in this portion of the organ. All of the flowers were immature and consequently it is impossible to say whether seed could have been produced in such organs, or not.

AUSTIN, TEXAS.

SHORTER NOTES

AN APPARENTLY NEW RECORD FOR *RUBUS CHAMAEMORUS* LINNAEUS.—*Rubus chamaemorus* Linnaeus seems to be limited in its so far published range to the far northeast and north among American plants. Its occurrence south of Maine, New Hampshire and Ontario is not reported, so far as known to me.

The new record is of two specimens taken from a bed several square feet in extent in one of the bogs near Montauk Point, L. I. These plants were collected by Dr. William C. Braislin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., August 21, 1908, who recognized in the plant something not before seen by him, and they were deposited in the Museum of The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences with the request that they be named.

The occurrence of this *Rubus* on Long Island certainly is one not before suspected, and the only explanation of its occurrence in a permanent situation at Montauk Point must be due to such causes as are fully discussed by Dr. M. L. Fernald, in a recent paper containing much discussion of geographical distribution published in *Rhodora*, or to the direct agency of migratory birds, many of which touch Long Island in their southward flights.

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